



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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P. MICHAEL FREEMAN
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

July 6, 2005

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN 

FOURTH OF JULY 2005 ACTIVITY REPORT

This report includes actions that were taken by this Department to mitigate the anticipated additional emergency activity during the Fourth of July 2005 holiday. Also included is a summary of fireworks-related emergency responses, property losses, and the number of injuries.

OPERATIONS – EMERGENCY ACTIVITY REPORT

The Department received 2,263 telephone calls and dispatched 1,063 incidents. The following information indicates the fireworks-related activities that took place during the 24-hour period from 7 a.m. on July 4, to 7 a.m. on July 5, 2005.

For comparison, the 2004 statistics have also been included:

Number Of Incidents	2004	2005
Structures	9	9
Miscellaneous	14	10
Grass/Brush Fires	10	25
Total	33	44

Dollar/Acreage Loss/Injuries	2004	2005
Structures/Contents	\$56,800	\$50,500
Miscellaneous Property	\$2,125	\$2,520
Grass/Brush	4.97 Acres	38.21 Acres
Injuries	1	5
Total	\$58,925	\$53,020

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS	BRADBURY	CUDAHY	HAWTHORNE	LA MIRADA	MALIBU	POMONA	SIGNAL HILL
ARTESIA	CALABASAS	DIAMOND BAR	HIDDEN HILLS	LA PUENTE	MAYWOOD	RANCHO PALOS VERDES	SOUTH EL MONTE
AZUSA	CARSON	DUARTE	HUNTINGTON PARK	LAKEWOOD	NORWALK	ROLLING HILLS	SOUTH GATE
BALDWIN PARK	CERRITOS	EL MONTE	INDUSTRY	LANCASTER	PALMDALE	ROLLING HILLS ESTATES	TEMPLE CITY
BELL	CLAREMONT	GARDENA	INGLEWOOD	LAWDALE	PALOS VERDES ESTATES	ROSEMEAD	WALNUT
BELL GARDENS	COMMERCE	GLENDORA	IRVINDALE	LOMITA	PARAMOUNT	SAN DIMAS	WEST HOLLYWOOD
BELLFLOWER	COVINA	HAWAIIAN GARDENS	LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE	LYNWOOD	PICO RIVERA	SANTA CLARITA	WESTLAKE VILLAGE
			LA HABRA				WHITTIER

AUGMENTED STAFFING

The following resources were staffed by this Department on July 4, 2005:

- The Information Management Division (IMD) provided Command and Control with on-site CAD support staff from July 3 through the early morning of July 5 and provided incident/call volume reports for our Public Information Office (PIO).
- IMD provided technical support staff on call for emergency PC/communications repairs for the entire holiday weekend.
- Incident Management Team 3 was on-duty during the holiday weekend.
- Staffed water tenders for 24 hours (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed all unstaffed patrols for 24 hours (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed Helitender 87 at Fire Station 87 for 24 hours (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed Helitender 129 and Water Tender 129 at Fire Station 129 for 24 hours (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed a Type 1 Engine Strike Team for 24 hours (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed Fuel Tender 1 for 24 hours (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed Helitender 7 at Heavy Equipment Unit for 12 hours (1000 to 2200 hours).
- Staffed an additional fireship at Barton Heliport for 12 hours (0900 to 2100 hours).
- Staffed four dozers at Fire Stations 64, 124, and 129, (1000 to 2200 hours) and heavy equipment unit (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed 20 ground crews and 6 superintendents.

LIFEGUARD DIVISION

- Assigned one additional paramedic to the Catalina Isthmus on July 3, 4, and 5.
- For permitted firework display program coverage, all sections provided extended staffing hours on boats and beach patrol.
- Southern Section Headquarters staffed with a captain after-hours.
- Staffed Dive Team #1 on July 4 and 5.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MEDIA ACTIVITIES

Special emphasis was placed once again on warning the public of the dangers associated with the use of fireworks. The public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks display instead of using private home-use fireworks. The following is a list of the campaign highlights for 2005:

- Conducted the 14th Annual “Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest” with the theme of “*Attend a Professional Fireworks Display.*” All elementary schools within the County of Los Angeles were invited to participate and over 1,000 posters were submitted.
- A press conference was held on July 1, 2005 to announce the six winners for the “Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest” and to award prizes to each winner. During the press conference, representatives from our Department, the Los Angeles Fire Department, and the Grossman Burn Center, were on hand to discuss the dangers of legal and illegal fireworks and the public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks show. Representatives from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and the Los Angeles Police Department also attended and spoke about the dangers of discharging firearms into the air during the 4th of July holiday.
- Conducted numerous interviews with local and national newspapers, radio, and television stations on the potential dangers of fireworks.
- The Professional Fireworks Show Hotline, 888-654-FIRE, was put in operation to provide information in both English and Spanish on the locations of professional fireworks shows.
- On June 26, 2005, Public Affairs posted public safety information regarding the Fourth of July on the website www.lacofd.org. The website included a list for the public of all the professional fireworks shows in Los Angeles County. Other information included was a list of which cities in Los Angeles County allowed *Safe and Sane* fireworks and general Fourth of July safety tips. This information was also posted at www.safejuly4th.org, a website sponsored by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, and the Children’s Burn Foundation.
- Supported the “WE TIP” telephone hotline to identify and locate the illegal use of fireworks.
- Posted public safety information regarding the Fourth of July on our website at www.lacofd.org that included a list of all professional fireworks displays being held in Los Angeles County. Other information including a list of which cities in Los Angeles County allow Safe and Sane fireworks and other general Fourth of July-related safety tips were also posted.

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

- Provided fireworks safety information to all fire stations for distribution to the public.
- Approved the permits and supervised 45 public fireworks displays with a Fire Safety Officer at each site (July 1 – 4).
- Staffed the Communications Center with Fire Prevention personnel to support the fireworks enforcement and confiscation activity of fire units and police agencies (July 4).
- Provided one Battalion Chief (Fireworks Coordinator) for fireworks-related problems (July 3 and 4).
- The Arson/Fire Investigation Unit assisted several law enforcement and fire agencies resulting in the arrest of two individuals and the confiscation of illegal fireworks that now fill a 40-foot container.

CONCLUSION

The number of fireworks-related incidents increased by 11. The dollar loss was down from \$58,925 in 2004 to \$53,020 in 2005. The number of fireworks-related injuries was up by four. The Department will be forwarding to your Honorable Board a more comprehensive report during the month of August that covers a 30-day reporting period of June 17 to July 16, 2005. This 30-day report is a more detailed reflection of actual trends in fireworks-related incidents than the 24-hour figures contained in this report.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

PMF:cm

c: Vicky Santana
Randi Tahara
Joseph Charney
Rick Velasquez
Sussy Nemer

